

The Joshua Tree

March 30, 2021

THE HISTORY OF GEORGE AFB

Most people in the High Desert think that before SCLA (Southern California Logistics Airport) was George Air Force Base and that is it. But according to **Terry Caldwell**, it is much deeper than that, and there are many stories and people involved not many know of.



of the fortified islands in Manila Bay at the beginning of World War II. He died on April 29, 1942 in an aircraft accident near Darwin, NT Australia.

After WWII, the base was used to train fighter pilots and bombardiers, that participated in the Korean War, Vietnam, and others. The base was

also the first stop for Full Colonels to become Generals.

Before it was GAFB, the base was called the U.S. Army Air Corps Training Center. This was before Congress created the Air Force in 1941. The main training at the center was for bombing pilots and not just for Americans, our NATO Allies trained there too. In fact, the World War II Glider Pilots who participated in the Battle of Normandy, trained in Victorville!

Sadly, in 1988 Congress adopted the “Base Realignment and Closure Act” and shockingly for all the base had done for American military victories, was in the first round of base closures! Terry, Congressman **Jerry Lewis** and others did all they could to save the base, but it was not to be.



In the 1950's, the base became known as the Tactical Air Command and

The closing of the base had more impact than just on the military. It had a great economic impact on the High Desert and was a substantial loss all industries in our community. This writer's wife has told stories of her parents' Victorville tanning salon, which used to have a line out the door when the base was open, turned into an empty space after the closure.

later the Air Combat Command Center, when the base moved away from Bombing to Fighter Jets.

In 1988, there was another battle of sorts for who would own the base. The fight was between Victorville and Adelanto, but soon, LA County wanted it too and use the 5,000 acres to move their homeless! Once again Congressman Lewis came to the rescue and said, “This will not happen!” True to his word, Victorville was awarded the base and it did not become an area for the LA homeless. Many people wanted the City to cut up the base for housing developments, but Terry and others had a dream to make George Air Force Base to be the premier air cargo hub in the Western Hemisphere. That dream is still being realized and is the driving force of the Southern California Logistics Airport today.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: **Bill Edwards**

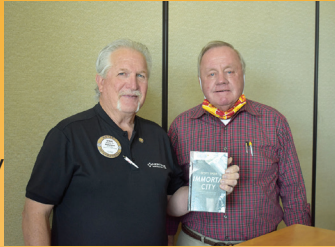
Flag Salute: **Chris Ackerman**

4-Way Test: **Steve Orr**



Thank you to Terry Caldwell for stopping by and giving the first part of his talk on the history of George Air Force Base. There are so many facts and stories that are not widely known, and we are

looking forward to the next installment! I agree vehemently with what Terry shared when he first began his talk; yes, it is great to be outdoors again and being at a "normal" Rotary meeting.



Please don't forget to sign up for our "5th Tuesday" Rotary meeting at Korean BBQ in Victorville on June 29th! It will be a lot of fun and a great time of fellowship.

Our next Board meeting will be on April 12th at 5:30pm in the DCB Board Room. A reminder to all Red Badge Rotarians, it is a requirement that you attend a board meeting in your quest to obtain a Blue Badge.

Next week we will hear from my friend Tom Schibusch, who will share his inspirational journey of 44 years walking and raising money for the March of Dimes. Make your plans to join us at El Pescador or on Zoom.

Steve



District News



Dwight Johnson shared the latest news from around the District. Our sister club in Apple Valley is looking for a new home as they desire to get back to in-person meetings. Sadly, the Rusty Bull is no longer able to accommodate them, so if you have an idea of a facility in Apple Valley for them to hold their meetings, please let Dwight know.

This year's international Conference will be in Taiwan. Virtually, that is. If you are interested in taking a virtual tour of the region and attend the conference, please visit the convention.rotary.org/en for more information.

Finally, ShelterBox, the international disaster relief charity that provides emergency shelter and other aid items to families around the world who have lost their homes to disaster or conflict, is seeking Rotarians help from around the world. Funds are needed to help those in dire circumstances around the globe.

A Letter to Our President

Dear President Stephen Orr,

Your rotary club of Victorville was chartered on 31-03-1950 , which is today. I would like to extend my warm wishes to you and to all your club members on this joyous moment. Rotary is the only organization which has global foot print and is working towards happy communities across the world with it's noble initiatives. Thanks to our rotary club founder Rtn Paul Harris, we are able to make a difference in the communities where we live. Looking forward to working with your club on service projects.

Thanks and regards

Suren Poruri

District Best Club President for year 2017-18 Secunderabad West

RI district 3150

Rotary Opens Opportunities

Big Blue Dice



Dwight Johnson had the chance to grab the Blue Dice, but drew white and saved the chance for another Rotarian next week.

We will continue next week with 12 dice and \$250 for the Rotarian who can pick the Blue Dice out of the bag.

Raffle

Bill Edwards was the big winner in this week's raffle, taking home a bottle of wine from **Dwight Johnson** and an Arco Pump Pass Card from Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group. Dwight himself won a fragrance diffuser from **Jim Murray** at Bob's Tire Service and a DCB Calendar will go on **Donna Well's** wall.



Spoon of Exception

Victor Valley Transit had their final time with the Spoon and this week Marketing Manager **Chris Ackerman** shared information about their Umo App and Smart Card, that allows riders to use their phone to board their bus, plan their trips with multiple route options including Uber & Lyft! Through the Umo App riders can also leave reviews on their buses cleanliness, crowdedness, report an emergency or leave a 5-star review for their VVTA Bus Operator!

Next it was time to auction the Spoon for the month of April, with **Steve Orr** opening the bidding at \$50 for himself. **Dwight Johnson** then upped the ante to \$60, but in the end, Steve took it for \$75, and next month we will hear all about Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group

April Birthdays

Trish Johnson	April 1
Corey Beck	April 10
Bill Scott	April 15
Mattie Brown	April 16
Russ Stringham	April 23
Alicia Anderson	April 23
Charles Gehrke	April 23

April Anniversaries

Ryan McEachron	21 Years
Bill Scott	20 Years
Mary Teran	14 Years
Rob Kilpatrick	14 Years
Teresa DeAtley	14 Years
Paula Porter	11 Years
David North	11 Years
Todd Sturges	10 Years
Sam Grandlienard	5 Years

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed s Jay Obernolte aide **Christopher Scott** and **Coleen Luque** once again as a guests of **Steve Orr**.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$18.00
Collected to Date: \$17,820.23
Total equals: 96,754 Doses!

*One dollar equals 2 doses of vaccine!
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2019-2021	Steve Orr
President 2021-2022	Jon Hove
President 2022-2023	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2025	Jessica Perez
President 2025-2026	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations	Kevin Kane
Club Service	Bill Edwards
Community Service	PLEASE VOLUNTEER
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service	Jessica Perez
Grants/Speech Contests	PLEASE VOLUNTEER
Scholarships.....	Esther Mears and Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Don Lager
Billing Officer	Esther Mears

Members-at-Large: Dwight Johnson & Rob Kilpatrick

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Programs	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, John Wickum
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Dr. Bowtie Brian
S.T.A.R. Students	Jim Barnes/Robin Cackler
Fundraising.....	Bill Edwards
Flowers and Gifts	KayMarie Gregory
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Green Tree Golf Course Clubhouse, 14144 Green Tree Blvd., Victorville

Make-up Days and Locations

MONDAY:	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
TUESDAY:	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
WEDNESDAY:	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Denny's, 14165 Main St., Hesperia San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, ZOOM Meetings, 1st, 2nd and 4th Thurs Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

- April 12:** Board of Directors meeting
5:30 pm Meeting *In-Person or Zoom*
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor
Hesperia and Silica Roads
- April 22:** Past Presidents' Dinner
5:30 pm Mama Carpino's, Apple Valley
- June 12-19:** Taipei Convention (Virtual)

Upcoming Programs

- April 6:** Tom Schibusch, **Topic: March of Dimes** (Orr)
- April 13:** OPEN
- April 20:** Luke Vorstermans, Founder of Roll a Hippo Foundation, **Topic: Take a Hippo to Work** (Cooker)
- April 27:** **Ethics Essay Contest** (Boyd)

Design & Layout By



Printed By

